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ANNUAL REPORT FOR
1943.



TO
THE PERSHORE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

BY
J. J. MURRAY, M.B., D.P.H.
(District Medical Officer
of Health).

TO THE PERSHORE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1943.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

I beg to present my annual report on the health of your District for the year 1943, in which the vital statistics bear favourable comparison with the year 1939. The death rate is practically unaltered, the birth rate has increased, and the infant mortality rate (deaths under one year per 1,000 live births) has decreased markedly from 53 in 1939 to 29 in the present year. In addition no maternal deaths have been recorded. From 1940 to 1943 inclusive a total of 2,778 children have been immunised against diphtheria, and it is estimated that approximately 80% of all children under 15 have now been protected.

The question of housing provision together with the ancillary services of water supply and sewage disposal must, of necessity, remain in partial abeyance during the war years. 8 Houses as you are aware have been built and occupied under the Wartime Scheme for the housing of Agricultural Workers. It is satisfactory to know that consideration is being given to the provision of a sewage disposal scheme for your area, as a preliminary to which, a general survey is now being undertaken by your consultant Engineer, and that when the Coventry Corporation supply becomes available the greater part of your district will be furnished with piped water.

The attendance at Infant Welfare Clinics (administered by the County Council) show an upward trend and it is apparent that an increased interest is being taken in the care of young children.

In general it may be said that the health of the district is very satisfactory and for the present, at any rate, shows no downward trend from the peace years; in point of fact, rather the reverse.

I am indebted to the Sanitary Inspector (Mr. J. W. Holmes) and his staff for their help during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. J. MURRAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

CHIEF STATISTICS.

<u>BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	105	126	231.
Illegitimate.	3	9	12.
	108	235	343.

<u>STILL BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	8	3	11.
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
	8	3	11

Birth-rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population. 16.3 ^{1939.} 15.6.

Still Birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births. 43. 50.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
DEATHS.	83	93	176

Death-rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population. 11.8 11.7

Deaths from Puerperal causes:

Rate per 1,000 total
(live and still) births.

Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other Puerperal causes	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	Nil	Nil	Nil

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths of infants under one year	3	4	7
Deaths of Legitimate infants	3	3	6
Deaths of Illegitimate infants	-	1	1

Death rate of infants under one year:

All infants per 1,000 live births.	29.	53.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	26.	41.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	83	250.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages).	16.	19.
Deaths from Measles (all ages).	Nil.	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).	Nil.	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (Under 2 years of age).	Nil.	Nil.

Comparison with some of the figures for the whole country is as follows:-

	<u>England & Wales.</u>	<u>District.</u> <u>1943.</u>	<u>District.</u> <u>1939.</u>
Birth-rate.	16.5.	16.3.	15.6.
Death-rate.	14.2.	11.75.	11.5.
Infant Mortality Rate.	49.	29.	53.

CAUSES OF DEATHS.

The following table gives the causes of death during 1943:

<u>CAUSE OF DEATH.</u>	<u>MALES.</u>	<u>FEMALES.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Measles.	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	-
Diphtheria.	-	1	1
Whooping Cough.	-	-	-
Acute Infectious Encephalitis.	-	-	-
Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Fevers.	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	1	-	1
Acute Polio-myelitis & Polio-encephalitis.	-	-	-
Influenza.	1	2	3
Syphilitic Diseases.	-	-	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	5	-	5
Other forms of Tuberculosis.	-	1	1
Cancer.	4	12	16
{ Cancer of Buccal cavity - oesophagus M.	1	-	3
uterus F.	-	2	2
{ Cancer of Stomach & Duodenum.	-	3	3
{ Cancer of Breast.	-	2	2
{ Cancer of all other sites.	3	5	8
Diabetes.	2	2	4
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions.	9	6	15
Heart Disease.	21	25	46
Other Diseases of Circulatory System.	4	3	7
Bronchitis.	6	9	15
Pneumonia.	3	1	4
Other Respiratory Diseases.	1	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum.	-	1	1
Diarrhoea. (under 2 years).	-	-	-
Appendicitis.	-	-	-
Other Digestive Diseases.	3	3	6
Nephritis.	4	3	7
Puer. & Post. Abort. Sepsis.	-	-	-
Other Maternal Causes.	-	-	-
Premature Birth.	2	2	4
Con. Mal. Birth Inj. Inf. Dis.	1	2	3
Suicide.	-	-	-
Road Traffic Accidents.	2	1	3
Other Violent Causes.	-	2	2
All other causes.	14	16	30.
 TOTALS.	 83	 93	 176.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The general pooling of Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases continues and has been found to be of much help. Under this arrangement, cases other than Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, are removed to outside Hospitals thus solving the problem of limited accommodation. The question of cubicle provision and hospital modernisation remain for post war consideration.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supplies.

A total of 1,819 houses in this area is supplied with piped water which comes mainly from springs situated on nearby hills. The supply from the larger group of springs is satisfactory, and analyses are consistently good, but the smaller group show variations in quality from time to time. A satisfactory supply to 81 houses included in the above total, comes from Worcester City Corporation.

This leaves 2,331 houses dependent on wells, many of which are unsuitable for drinking purposes, but in the post war years it is hoped to remedy this unsatisfactory state of affairs with water drawn from supplies to the Coventry Corporation, which will be piped across this district. If this becomes available it will solve the problem for the greater part of the area.

Sewage Disposal.

Arrangements are being made (1944) for a survey to be carried out as a preliminary to establish works for the area as a whole.

Housing.

8 Houses for agricultural workers have been erected under the Wartime Scheme and have now been occupied. Other activities must, of necessity, be deferred.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Duties of the Food and Drug Acts 1928 - 38 are carried out by the Inspector of Weights & Measures. Sanitary Inspectors can also take samples under the Act.

All dairies are subject to supervision by the Sanitary Inspector, by whom they are visited periodically.

Slaughter houses have not been used since 1939, but in the future consideration will doubtless be given to the making of more satisfactory arrangements than those which prevailed prior to the war.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notified Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1943.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever.	12	5	-
Diphtheria.	14	14	1.
Para-typhoid fever.	1	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1	-	-
Pneumonia.	4	-	4.

TABLE OF NOTIFIED DISEASES cont.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Dysentery.	2.	-	-
Measles.	43	-	-
Whooping Cough.	54	-	-
Erysipelas.	4	-	-
Smallpox.	-	-	-
Typhoid.	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	1	-	1.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	1	-	-

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES CASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1943.

Age Groups.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Para-Typhoid Fever.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Pneumonia.	Dysentery.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever.
Under 1 year.	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	4	1.
1 - 2 years.	1	1	-	-	-	-	8	8	-
3 - 4 "	-	2	-	-	-	-	6	18	-
5 - 10 "	10	4	-	-	-	-	16	23	-
11 - 15 "	-	4	-	-	-	-	6	1	-
16 - 20 "	-	2	1	-	1	-	1	-	-
21 - 35 "	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	-
36 - 45 "	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
46 - 65 "	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
66 and over.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS.	12	14	1	1	4	2	43	54	1

SCARLET FEVER.

7 cases of the 12 notified were nursed at home. Where conditions are good and isolation can be provided, it is not considered necessary to treat these cases in Hospital - at the discretion of the private practitioner.

INFLUENZA.

An outbreak during the November - December period paripassu with the Nation Epidemic affected large number of adults and children. The disease on the whole was of a mild nature.

WHOOPIING COUGH & MEASLES.

A considerable number of cases occurred during the spring and autumn, many schools had their attendances depleted. All the cases recovered.

DIPHTHERIA.

14 cases were notified, with one death of a child aged 8 years. In this latter case the disease was well advanced before a doctor was consulted. As this may easily occur owing to the insidious onset of the illness it cannot be too strongly emphasised that every child should be immunised as soon as possible after attaining the age of one year, (it is also considered necessary to give one more "boosting" dose on or before school entrance). Only one of the total cases had been immunised, recovery ensuing after a slight attack.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The table below shows the figures of children protected during the year and also the total figures from the inception of this measure.

	<u>Nos. Imm.</u> <u>0 - 4</u> <u>inclusive.</u>	<u>Nos. Imm.</u> <u>5 - 14</u> <u>inclusive.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
<u>1943.</u>	226	131.	357.
<u>1940 .. 1943.</u> <u>inclusive.</u>	840.	1,938.	2,778.
<u>Total %</u> <u>immunised.</u>	72%	80%	average 76%

These estimates are based on official child population figures, and do not include the numbers of children immunised privately as these are difficult to assess, but if a conservative figure is allowed for this, it would mean that approximately 80% of the total children in this area have been protected - a very gratifying result. Credit is due to the principals of Schools and to the local District Nurses for their interest and help.

SCABIES.

An arrangement was made with the County Council whereby cases could be admitted to their Institution at a flat rate per case irrespective of the length of stay. 10 cases were treated under this scheme. The incidence on the whole has diminished during the year, but it is known that a considerable number of cases have been treated privately.

SCHOOLS.

It was not necessary to close any Schools during the year for infectious disease.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives below particulars of the notifications (19), and of all deaths from the disease in the area during 1943.

<u>Age Periods.</u>	<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Deaths.</u>			
	<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1 -- 4 years.	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	1
5 -- 14 "	--	--	2	2	--	--	--	--
15 -- 24 "	2	1	--	2	1	--	--	--
25 -- 34 "	4	1	1	--	1	--	--	--
35 -- 44 "	1	1	--	--	2	--	--	--
45 -- 54 "	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
55 -- 64 "	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
65 and over.	1	--	--	--	1	--	--	--
TOTALS.	8	3	3	5	5	--	--	1.

Number of Deaths from non-notified Tuberculosis. Nil.

Total number of Tuberculosis Deaths. 6.

